

KAISER GYPSUM COMPANY, INC.
Skinner Building
Seattle, Washington

FOR RELEASE:

Thursday, January 7, 1954

A \$1,709,762 bid by the J. C. Boespflug Construction Company of Seattle was lowest among 17 bidders for the general contract to construct a gypsum board plant and plaster mill in Seattle for Kaiser Gypsum Company, Inc. The bids were revealed at a public opening today.

Award of the contract will be announced next week, and ground will be broken on the 9-1/2-acre plant site in the 5900 block of East Marginal Way shortly thereafter.

The Kaiser Gypsum plant, costing an estimated \$4,000,000, including equipment and property, will consist of eight major structures, the largest of which will be a 155 by 600-foot steel and concrete manufacturing building equipped with the most modern, custom-built machinery available. Also included in the construction will be a 16-sided dome-like covered storage unit, a six-story high calcining building, a 250,000-gallon oil tank, and pier facilities for unloading gypsum ore ships on Duwamish Waterway.

The mill represents a new industry for the Pacific Northwest, being the only plant of its kind within 800 miles of the Puget Sound area. Its initial permanent employment will be approximately 170, with an annual payroll in excess of \$725,000.

The new plant will end the comparative isolation of the Pacific Northwest from present sources of gypsum products. Existing plants, upon which the area is dependent, are located in Montana, Utah, Nevada and California.

The mill will have a production capacity of 100,000,000 square feet of gypsum products — gypsum wallboard, lath and exterior

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sheathing, and all types of hardwall and special plasters -- for the building industry in Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Alaska.

Until the plant is completed, Kaiser Gypsum has stepped-up shipments to the region from its other plants. Increased production at its California mills and a rapid expansion of sales offices in the Northwest are part of the company's program to introduce its line of products to the territory at the same assured volume and rapid delivery that eventually will result from the Seattle plant.

Kaiser Gypsum Company is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Permanente Cement Company. Currently it is operating two gypsum manufacturing plants in California at the ports of Long Beach and Redwood City, which receive gypsum ore from the company's quarries on San Marcos Island in the Gulf of California. The Seattle plant also will receive the bulk of its raw material from San Marcos, and will be supplied by one of the company's 10,000-ton ore vessels especially equipped to handle gypsum rock.

The construction bids for the new plant were supervised by Kaiser Engineers Division of Henry J. Kaiser Company, which is doing the engineering and procurement for the project.

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